

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 18 and 22 and add new claims 26-31 as follows:

- Sub B1 7 1. (Amended) A method for operating a proxy disposed between a user and a document accessible to said user over a computer network, in order to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache without necessarily requiring user validation of said objects upon re-use, comprising:
- (a) obtaining an electronic document:
 - (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a preexisting network address therefor;
 - (b) for at least one of said embedded objects, facilitating storage and re-use thereof from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requiring user validation of said object upon said re-use, by:
 - (i) specifying a new network address uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (ii) specifying cacheability information for said object;
 - (c) modifying said document by replacing said preexisting address for said object with said new network address;
 - (d) transmitting said modified document to said user;
 - (e) receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects; and
 - (f) in response to said request:
 - (i) transmitting said cacheability information to said requesting user;
 - (ii) evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (iii) transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.

18. (Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program logic instructions for operating a proxy disposed between a user and a document accessible to said user over a computer network, in order to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache without necessarily requiring user validation of said objects upon re-use, said instructions when executed:

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- (a) obtaining an electronic document:
 - (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a preexisting network address therefor;
 - (b) for at least one of said embedded objects, facilitating storage and re-use thereof from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requiring user validation of said object upon said re-use, by:
 - (i) specifying a new network address uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (ii) specifying cacheability information for said object;
 - (c) modifying said document by replacing said preexisting address for said object with said new network address;
 - (d) transmitting said modified document to said user;
 - (e) receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects; and
 - (f) in response to said user request:
 - (i) transmitting said cacheability information to said requesting user;
 - (ii) evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (iii) transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.

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22. (Amended) A device configured to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache without necessarily requiring user validation of said objects upon re-use, said device comprising:

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- (a) means for obtaining an electronic document:
 - (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a preexisting network address therefor;
 - (b) means for facilitating storage and re-use of at least one of said embedded objects, from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requiring user validation of said object upon said re-use, by:
 - (i) specifying a new network address uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (ii) specifying cacheability information for said object;
 - (c) means for modifying said document by replacing said preexisting address for said object with said new network address;
 - (d) means for transmitting said modified document to said user;
 - (e) means for receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects;
 - (f) means for transmitting said cacheability information to said requesting user;
 - (g) means for evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (h) means for transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.
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- A⁴
- 26. (New) The method of claim 1, where (f)(ii) includes validating said object against a content server.
 - 27. (New) The method of claim 1, where (f)(iii) includes instructing said user to use a copy of said object accessible to said user.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting to said user a version of said object.
29. (New) A method for operating a proxy disposed between a user and a document accessible to said user over a computer network, in order to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache instead of necessarily requiring downloading said objects upon each use, comprising:
- (a) obtaining an electronic document:
- (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a network address therefor;
- (b) for at least one of said embedded objects, facilitating storage and re-use thereof from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requesting said object upon each use, by specifying cacheability information for said object that:
- (i) permits caching thereof;
 - (ii) including an entity tag uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (iii) specifies a required validation of said object;
- (c) transmitting said document to said user;
- (d) receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects; and
- (e) in response to said request:
- (i) transmitting at least a portion of said cacheability information to said requesting user;
 - (ii) evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (iii) transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.
30. (New) The method of claim 29 where:
- (a) said validity evaluation does not indicate invalidity; and

- (b) further comprising instructing said user to use a copy of said object accessible to said user.

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31. (New) The method of claim 29 where:

- (a) said validity evaluation indicates invalidity; and
(b) further comprising transmitting to said user a version of said object.
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**VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS
WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. (Amended) A method for operating a proxy disposed between a user and a document accessible to said user over a computer network, in order to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache without necessarily requiring user validation of [validating] said objects upon re-use, comprising:
 - (a) obtaining an electronic document:
 - (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a preexisting network address therefor;
 - (b) for at least one of said embedded objects, facilitating storage and re-use thereof from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requiring user validation of said object upon said re-use, by:
 - (i) specifying a new network address uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (ii) specifying cacheability information for said object;
 - (c) modifying said document by replacing said preexisting address for said object with said new network address;
 - (d) transmitting said modified document to said user;
 - (e) receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects; and
 - (f) in response to said request:
 - (i) transmitting said [requested object and said] cacheability information [in response to said request] to said requesting user;
 - (ii) evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (iii) transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.

18. (Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program logic instructions for operating a proxy disposed between a user and a document accessible to said user over a computer network, in order to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache without necessarily requiring user validation of [validating] said objects upon re-use, said instructions when executed:
- (a) obtaining an electronic document:
 - (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a preexisting network address therefor;
 - (b) for at least one of said embedded objects, facilitating storage and re-use thereof from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requiring user validation of said object upon said re-use, by:
 - (i) specifying a new network address uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (ii) specifying cacheability information for said object;
 - (c) modifying said document by replacing said preexisting address for said object with said new network address;
 - (d) transmitting said modified document to said user;
 - (e) receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects; and
 - (f) in response to said user request:
 - (i) transmitting said [requested object and said] cacheability information [in response to said user request] to said requesting user;
 - (ii) evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (iii) transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.

22. (Amended) A device configured to facilitate re-use of objects within said document from a cache without necessarily requiring user validation of [validating] said objects upon re-use, said device comprising:
- (a) means for obtaining an electronic document:
 - (i) identifiable by a network address of said document;
 - (ii) including one or more references to one or more embedded objects;
 - (iii) each said object being identifiable by a preexisting network address therefor;
 - (b) means for facilitating storage and re-use of at least one of said embedded objects, from a cache accessible to said user, without necessarily requiring user validation of said object upon said re-use, by:
 - (i) specifying a new network address uniquely identifying said object; and
 - (ii) specifying cacheability information for said object;
 - (c) means for modifying said document by replacing said preexisting address for said object with said new network address;
 - (d) means for transmitting said modified document to said user;
 - (e) means for receiving a user request for at least one of said embedded objects; [and]
 - (f) means for transmitting said [requested object and said] cacheability information [in response to said request] to said requesting user;
 - (g) means for evaluating the validity of said requested object, using information from said user request; and
 - (h) means for transmitting an outcome of said validity evaluation to said requesting user.

Claims 26-31 have been added.

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